

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

REPORT CARD

for 2009





DJJ's 2009 "Community Service Day," September 12, 2009. Over 3,600 DJJ youths and volunteers from every DJJ county office and facility in the state volunteered for local charities and victim organizations.

A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

As we present our sixth annual “Juvenile Justice Report Card,” the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the state of South Carolina, like many other states, continue to face an economic crisis. The crisis has led to the elimination of many of DJJ’s most vital and successful programs, putting much of the agency’s progress in peril because of deep budget reductions. However, you will see from this Report Card that public safety, prevention, rehabilitation, the education of troubled youth, and services to victims are among our top priorities.

While DJJ staff, volunteers, and many generous private donors have valiantly helped the agency keep some of its best programs and initiatives in place, the consequences of losing \$21 million -- over 25% of our budget -- have greatly impacted not only programs, but also staff, and most importantly, the children and citizens of South Carolina whom we serve.

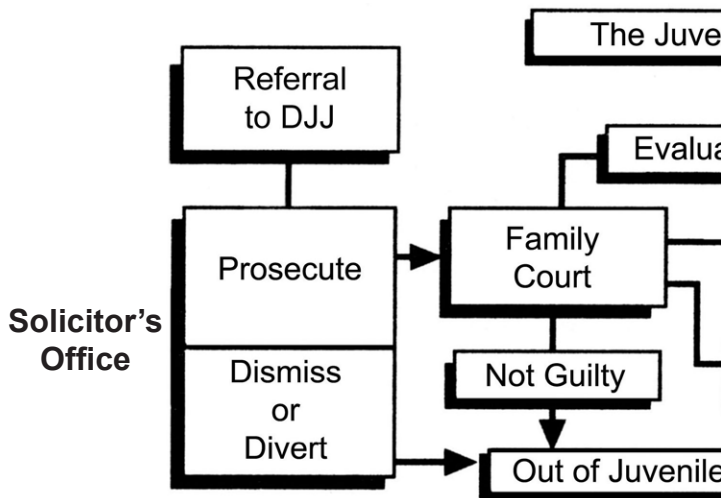
The budget crisis has forced DJJ to close every agency-run group home in the state, to reduce our staff by over 300 employees, completely cut funding for our Teen After-school Centers (TASC’s), and to eliminate all of our community job training programs, our employability program, and our Gang Reduction Intervention Program (GRIP). These cuts have been particularly hard on our prevention efforts and programs which help reduce victimization and youth crime in the long-term. So, while the direct effect of these cuts may not be felt immediately, it is my concern that they will have an ultimate negative impact which we have yet to see. We are fortunate to have maintained the successful Intensive Supervision Officer (ISO) program, which provides around the clock monitoring of youth on probation.

During this time of economic crisis, I want to commend DJJ staff and those who support the rehabilitation of troubled children for their efforts to help ease some of the ill effects of this crisis and to help keep the agency’s performance at its highest level. We are especially grateful for non-profit organizations such as “Friends of Juvenile Justice” (FJJ), VECTOR Foundation, and Youth Hope Foundation; which collaborate to bring in private partnerships and funding to DJJ.

We are proud to say that the content of this report card reflects the amazing job DJJ staff and volunteers are doing against increasingly tough odds. DJJ harbors the hope that our state can recover from this crisis and that we can soon rebuild some of what we have lost. We ask that you take the time to study this Report Card and to join efforts to help make communities safer, to better satisfy victims of crime, and to rehabilitate young offenders.

Bill Byars

Director, South Carolina
Department of Juvenile Justice

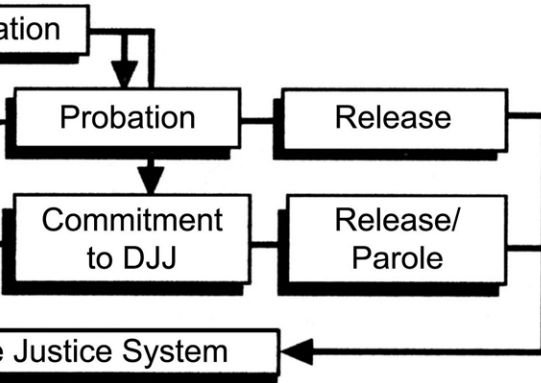


Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a Solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Law enforcement also may elect to send the juvenile to a South Carolina juvenile detention center, pending a hearing.

After county office or detention center personnel have interviewed a juvenile, DJJ makes recommendations to the Solicitor's office regarding the case. The Solicitor has a number of options available when deciding how to pursue a case. A Solicitor may choose to divert a juvenile to a community program (such as a drug court or juvenile arbitration program) or require the juvenile to make restitution for the offense. Solicitors also may choose to proceed with prosecution or to dismiss a case entirely.

If the Solicitor chooses to prosecute, the next stage of the process involves the family court. A family court judge determines the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and sentences those juveniles adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Often a judge will request a DJJ evaluation of the juvenile before making a final ruling, or prior to commitment. This involves psychological, social, and educational evaluations conducted either in the community or at one of DJJ's three regional evaluation centers. The resulting comprehensive evaluation helps the judge decide how to proceed in the best interests of the juvenile, victim, and community.

Juvenile Justice Process



A family court judge may find the juvenile is not delinquent (not guilty). After a finding of delinquency, the judge has several sentencing options. Chief among these is probation, which maintains the juvenile in the community under DJJ supervision. The judge may also commit the juvenile to DJJ custody by imposing a determinate (fixed amount of time) or indeterminate sentence. An indeterminate sentence allows the youth to be confined up to the age of 21.

Upon indeterminate commitment, a juvenile will be given a time range or “guideline,” determined by the state Board of Juvenile Parole (for all felonies and select misdemeanors) or DJJ’s own release authority (for most misdemeanors and all status offenses). This range is based on the severity of the juvenile’s offense and his history of previous offenses. These guidelines can run anywhere from 1-3 months up to 36-54 months. The Board and DJJ use these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile’s behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

Juveniles may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a local aftercare program or program at a wilderness camp or group home. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision. DJJ county officers supervise juveniles on parole, much as they supervise juveniles on probation.

For more detailed information visit DJJ’s website at:
www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Cases

Referred to DJJ

2008 – 2009	23,111
2007 – 2008	23,826
2006 – 2007	24,699
2005 – 2006	25,820
2004 – 2005	26,213
2003 – 2004	27,328
2002 – 2003	29,031

CASE REFERRALS TO DJJ: In FY 2008-09, 23,111 cases were referred to DJJ, a 20% drop in the last six years. Data collected by DJJ and Juvenile Arbitration Programs (early intervention) at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 67 percent of the population was male, 58 percent was African-American, and the average age was 16 years old.

Five Most Frequent
Offenses Associated with
Referrals to DJJ

- #1 Disturbing Schools
- #2 Shoplifting
- #3 Simple Assault & Battery
- #4 Public Disorderly Conduct
- #5 Truancy

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO DJJ: The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was disturbing schools. No felony offenses occurred in the top five reasons for referral to DJJ. Only 9.1% of cases involved violent and serious offenses.

Offenders
Diverted by Juvenile
Arbitration Programs

2008 – 2009	5,470
2007 – 2008	5,086
2006 – 2007	5,294
2005 – 2006	5,215
2004 – 2005	4,879

OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAMS: Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated in all 16 judicial circuits in South Carolina to divert first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims, and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions.

Daily Population
Close of FY 2006-07

	2009	2006
Hardware Secure Custody (committed and noncommitted)	691	838
Staff Secure Custody (community placements)	275	563
Multi-Agency and Therapeutic Placements	194	220
Marine Programs	87	89
Mental Health Placements	50	32
Total:	1,297	1,522

DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ: At the close of Fiscal Year 2008-09, a daily population of 691 juveniles was held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ. Staff secure community placements have shown a drastic drop in the last year due to the closure of all DJJ group homes and some wilderness camps due to recent budget cuts. This represents nearly a 15 percent drop in the total population over a three-year period.

A Report Card to Our Citizens

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Juvenile Parole & Probation Caseloads in Communities

2008 - 2009	4,973
2007 - 2008	5,075
2006 - 2007	5,485
2005 - 2006	5,892
2004 - 2005	6,013

JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE

CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES: The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ's community staff supervised 4,973 juvenile offenders both on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Eighty-five percent of juveniles on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.

Youth Served by TASC

2008-2009	*460 Youth
2007-2008	506 Youth
2006-2007	286 Youth
2005-2006	196 Youth

*Program was eliminated mid-year due to budget cuts

TEEN AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS (TASC):

TASCs are after-school programs that provided mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. Prior to the elimination of the program in November 2008, over 31 percent of TASC students improved school performance, and a similar percentage improved attendance. DJJ hopes to fully restore this program in the future.

DJJ School District Graduates

2008 – 2009	147
2007 – 2008	176
2006 – 2007	149
2005 – 2006	134
2004 – 2005	167

SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATION

RATE: DJJ operates its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. For the sixth year, DJJ's school district received the "Palmetto Gold" award.

Notification to Victims Regarding Case Status

2008 – 2009	*16,654
2007 – 2008	16,004
2006 – 2007	15,450
2005 – 2006	14,950
2004 – 2005	13,480

*Notifications have increased more than 24% in 5 years

NOTIFICATION TO VICTIMS: DJJ strives to serve crime victims. Upon request, victims of juvenile crime are notified regarding the status of the offender(s) related to their individual cases through the Internet Victim Information System (IVIS) provided by DJJ. In fiscal year 2008-09, DJJ notified 16,654 victims regarding their case status.

A Report Card to Our Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY — A Restorative Benchmark

(Repairing the harm to victims and community)

Restitution to Victims

# of Cases:	915
Amount Ordered:	\$ 495,952
Amount Paid:	\$ 385,392
85% of Offenders Paid in Full	

RESTITUTION: Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. Of 8,757 cases closed during FY 2008-09, when restitution was ordered, 85 percent of offenders paid in full. The total amount of restitution collected was \$385,392.

Restorative Community
Work Service Hours

# of Cases:	3,663
Hours Ordered:	105,962
Hours Worked:	91,129 (86%)
\$ Value:	\$ 660,685 (calculated at minimum wage)

WORK SERVICE: Offenders also are expected to perform work service to repay their community for the harm they caused. In 8,757 cases closed during FY 2008-09 , 105,962 hours of community work service were ordered. The number of work service hours completed was 91,129, which is 86 percent of the work service ordered.

Victim Satisfaction

How would you rate your overall experience with the system? (Rated 1 to 5 with 1 being "most negative" and 5 being "most positive.")

	2009	2008
Rated "5"	69%	67%
Rated "4"	13%	15%
Rated "3"	10%	10%
Rated "2"	5%	5%
Rated "1"	3%	3%

MEASURING SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY:

The justice system has a responsibility to serve crime victims. Over the past 5 years, crime victims across South Carolina were surveyed to determine their level of satisfaction with the juvenile justice system. Victims were asked to rate their overall experience with the juvenile justice system. On a rating scale with 1 being most negative to 5 being most positive, nearly 70% percent of victims surveyed rated their satisfaction at a five.

A Report Card to Our Citizens

7

COMPETENCY—A Restorative Benchmark (Offenders developing skills needed to live crime free)

Drug & Alcohol Abuse Offenders Testing Negative

Number Tested: 1,597

Percent Tested
Negative: 77%

RESISTANCE TO DRUG & ALCOHOL USE:

In 8,757 cases closed during FY 2008-09, 18 percent of youth were tested while under supervision in the community. Of those youth tested, a negative result occurred in 77 percent of cases. Marijuana was involved in 89 percent of all positive tests.

School Participation

Youth Enrolled in
Educational Program or Vocational
Training at Case Closure:
7,469 Youth
(85%)

Youth Not Enrolled but
Employed at Case Closure
24 Youth
(1.8%)

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: During FY 2008-09, 85 percent of the 8,757 youth completing court orders or Juvenile Arbitration Program sanctions were enrolled in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training. Of the 1,288 youth not involved in an alternative educational or vocational program, and who were age-eligible (16 years old) to work, 24 were employed.

Employability Training

Youth Completing
Employability Training
(secure facilities)

36 Youth

Youth Earning "WorkKeys"
Accreditation

32 Youth

EMPLOYABILITY TRAINING: Due to budget cuts, most DJJ employability training was eliminated in November 2008. Prior to elimination, the program served 684 youth a year in the community. The program now only exists in some secure facilities where 36 youth completed the program during Fiscal Year 2008-09. Thirty-two of those youth earned "WorkKeys" accreditation, a state program designed to evaluate students' workplace skills.

Citizen Participation

of Volunteers: 1,791

Hrs. Contributed: 34,257

Value: \$248,363
(calculated at minimum wage)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COMPETENCY: During FY 2008-09, 1,791 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ and the Solicitors' Arbitration Programs as mentors, arbitrators, tutors, auxiliary probation officers, in other capacities in the community, and in DJJ facilities. Citizen volunteers helped to make our communities safer by contributing approximately 34,257 hours of services. DJJ is served by more volunteers each year than permanent staff.

COMPETENCY

COMMUNITY SAFETY — A Restorative Benchmark
(Protecting the public)

13-Year Comparison of
Violent & Serious
Juvenile Cases in
South Carolina

Year	# of Cases
2008-09	2,108
1995-96	3,077

Table A
Juveniles Committed to
the Custody of DJJ

Year	Number
2008-09	1,953
2007-08	2,024
2006-07	1,968
2005-06	1,952
2004-05	1,867

Table B
Daily Population
Juveniles Held in DJJ's
Detention Center

Year	Number
2008-09	108
2007-08	105
2006-07	122
2005-06	132
2004-05	108

Recidivism Rate
Juvenile Offenders on
Probation/Parole or in
Arbitration Programs

Number of Offenders	Recidivism Rate
8,757	15%

VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES:

Nationally and in South Carolina, juvenile violent crime peaked in the mid-1990's. Since then, violent and serious juvenile crime in South Carolina has decreased by 31 percent. The number of cases includes juveniles referred more than once during the fiscal year.

TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE: One indicator of trends in South Carolina's juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed into the custody of DJJ. Table A compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ custody over the past five years.

Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ's Detention Center pending court action. Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. DJJ's Detention Center has had a drop in the daily population from its peak in 2005-2006. This drop correlated with detention reform efforts implemented by DJJ with the assistance of the University of South Carolina's Children's Law Center. However, detention rates still exceed the Center's design capacity of 72 beds.

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR: Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense. Of the 8,757 cases closed during FY 2008-09, 85 percent of offenders on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.

9

**2009 Restorative Initiatives
Building Partnerships, Ensuring Public Safety,
Providing Customer Services**

Building Community Partnerships

- **Clemson University & Columbia College** – DJJ partnered with Clemson University and Columbia College to host the 4th annual Girls' Symposium. The symposium focused on gender responsive issues related to female offenders.
- **Rotary International** – In 2006, DJJ joined with the Rotary Club of Lake Murray-Irmo to charter an Interact Club at DJJ. This year, DJJ's Interact Club won the Grand Prize in Rotary International's video contest by producing the three-minute video, "What Interact Means to Me."
- **United Way of the Midlands & Friends of Juvenile Justice (FJJ)** – DJJ collaborated with FJJ to establish the Youth Advisory Council of Orangeburg, SC, through a grant awarded by the United Way of the Midlands. The primary goal of the Advisory Council is to create and implement innovative programs for youth.
- **Friends of Juvenile Justice (FJJ)** – FJJ partnered with DJJ by funding five Teen After-School Center (TASC) programs. TASC programs provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervision for DJJ and community youth in the critical after-school hours.

Ensuring Public Safety

- **Gang Study Task Force** – DJJ leadership, along with other state leaders hosted community forums across the state to promote gang awareness. As a result, DJJ administered a gang survey and created a gang training curriculum for staff.
- **Replacement Dormitories Constructed** – Two new replacement dorms were constructed on Broad River Road. They were designed to promote best practice in behavior management and juvenile/staff safety.



2009 Restorative Initiatives (continued)

Providing Customer Services

- **Serving Carolina Through Service** – DJJ's Community Services Division initiated a state wide restorative community service day called Serving Carolina Through Service. Over 3,600 DJJ youth and staff from every county in South Carolina and DJJ facility participated in this project.
- **The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Program at DJJ** – The South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation partnered with DJJ to provide services that assist incarcerated youth in finding employment in their home communities upon release from DJJ facilities.

* * *

Special Thanks to DJJ's Performance
Measurements Partners

The Honorable David M. Pascoe
Solicitor, 1st Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Barbara R. Morgan
Solicitor, 2nd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable C. Kelly Jackson
Solicitor, 3rd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable William B. Rogers, Jr.
Solicitor, 4th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable W. Barney Giese
Solicitor, 5th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Leon Lott
Sheriff, Richland County

The Honorable Douglas A. Barfield, Jr.
Solicitor, 6th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Harold W. Gowdy, III
Solicitor, 7th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jerry W. Peace
Solicitor, 8th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Scarlett A. Wilson
Solicitor, 9th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Chrissy T. Adams
Solicitor, 10th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Donald V. Myers
Solicitor, 11th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable E. L. Clements, III
Solicitor, 12th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Robert M. Ariail
Solicitor, 13th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Isaac M. Stone, III
Solicitor, 14th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable J. Greg Hembree
Solicitor, 15th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Kevin S. Brackett
Solicitor, 16th Judicial Circuit

Helping Resources for Families and Crime Victims

Parent Support and Training

Parents Anonymous SC (800) 326-8621

Services for People with Disabilities & Special Needs

SC Department of Disabilities &

Special Needs (803) 898-9600

Pro Parents (parent support/training) (803) 770-3859

Services for People with Mental Health Needs

SC Department of Mental Health (803) 898-8581

SC Continuum of Care (803) 245-5147

Federation of Families (866) 770-0402

Job Training & Education Services for Youth

SC Vocational Rehabilitation (803) 641-7630

Job Corps (803) 245-5105

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School (803) 896-6480

Residential Services for Girls

Florence Crittenton Home

(serves pregnant girls) (864) 772-7526

Crossroads Group Home (864) 246-0266

Alcohol/Drug Abuse Treatment/Counseling Services

SC Department of Alcohol

& Other Drug Abuse Services (803) 896-5555

Palmetto Treatment Center (843) 747-5830

William J. McCord Adolescent Treatment Facility (803) 534- 2328

Residential Services for Children

SC Association of Children's

Homes & Family Services (803) 996-5437

Carolina Children's Home (803) 782-1241

Connie Maxwell Children's Home (864) 942-1400

Epworth Children's Home (803) 256-7394

Services for Victims of Crime

SC Crime Victim's Ombudsman (803) 734-1900

SC Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN) (803) 750-1200

For additional information regarding resource needs, or services provided by
DJJ, please go to **www.state.sc.us/djj**.



DJJ's Mission

The Governor's mission is to raise personal incomes of South Carolinians by creating a better environment for economic growth, delivering government services more openly and efficiently, improving quality of life, and improving our state's education.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice supports the Governor's mission by protecting the public and reclaiming juveniles through prevention, community programs, education and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

For more information contact:
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Office of Community Justice
(803) 896-9766
www.state.sc.us/djj

This project was supported by Juvenile Accountability Block Grant # 2008-JF-FX-0038 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice through the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U. S. Department of Justice.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. THE FOLLOWING OFFICES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES:

Title IX –Inspector General's Office – 803-896-9595
Title II & 504 – Special Education Office – 803-896-8484